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acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings, Vol. 5, Nos. 9—12, Vol. 6, Nos. 1 and 2, and of the Journal, new series, Vol. 2, Part 2; also transmitting their Bulletin and Transactions.

From Prof. Baird, dated Washington, Nov. 26, 1853, transmitting the collection of Serpents and Crawfishes acknowledged this evening.

From Mr. Charles Gillman of Brunswick, Maine, dated Nov. 29, 1853, in relation to obtaining a specimen of Moose (*Cervus alces*) for the Museum, an opportunity of which was now offered him. Referred to the Curators.

Dr. Le Conte presented a paper intended for publication in the Proceedings, entitled "Descriptions of new Coleoptera, from Texas, chiefly collected by the U. S. Boundary Expedition." Referred to Dr. Leidy, Dr. Hays and Dr. Hallowell.

Dr. Leidy presented a paper for publication in the Journal, entitled "On *Bathynathus borealis*, an extinct Saurian from the new Red Sandstone of Prince Edward's Island." Referred to Mr. Lea, Dr. Ruschenberger and Dr. Coates.

On leave granted, Mr. Foulke offered a Resolution, instructing the Curators to enquire into the expediency of keeping the Museum open on more than two days in the week, and of granting the privilege of giving tickets of admission to subscribers to a fund for meeting the expenses of so doing.

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*December 13th.*

MR. ORD, President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Hon. J. K. Kane, dated Philada., Dec. 11, 1853, transmitting a copy of Dr. Kane's new work on the Grinnell Arctic Expedition.

Mr. Lea called the attention of the members to the specimen of Gneiss bored by *Pholas dactylus*, and containing the shell. The specimen is from the coast of France, and was procured by M. Cuyot, who had first noticed the fact of Gneiss Rock being bored by this animal. The specimen proves that the boring action must have been of a mechanical character and not chemical, as had been supposed by Deshayes. M. Cuyot was satisfied that it resulted from the animal twisting itself around in the rock.

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*December 20th.*

The President, MR. ORD, in the Chair.

Mr. Conrad presented a paper for publication in the Journal, entitled "Monograph of the genus *Argonauta*, with descriptions of five new species," which was referred to Mr. Phillips, Dr. Leidy, and Dr. Le Conte.

Mr. Conrad also presented two other papers for publication in the Proceedings, entitled "Synopsis of the genus *Cassidula*, and description of a proposed new genus, *Athleta*," and "Omissions and corrections to a Synopsis of the North American Naiades," both of which were referred to the Committee on the first paper.

Mr. Cassin presented a paper entitled "Synopsis of the Falconidæ which inhabit America north of Mexico, and descriptions of new species." Referred to Dr. Wilson, Mr. Ord and Col. McCall.

A note was read from Mrs. C. M. Gambel, accompanying the Journal of her late husband, Dr. Wm. Gambel, of an overland expedition to California in 1849, and giving permission to the Academy to examine and make selections from the manuscript. Referred to the Curators.

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December 27th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

The Committee on Dr. Le Conte's "Descriptions of new Coleoptera from Texas, chiefly collected by the U. S. Boundary Commission," reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

*Descriptions of some new Coleoptera from Texas, chiefly collected by the Mexican Boundary Commission.*

Most of the new species described in the following pages, were collected by Mr. Arthur Schott, of the Mexican Boundary Commission under Major Emory; they were procured in the vicinity of Eagle Pass, on the lower portion of the Río Grande. With them were several other species, belonging to genera of less interest, and which are here omitted, because numerous species from other parts of the country yet remain to be described. Those herein contained belong to groups which are particularly interesting, or which have been made the subject of special essays. In the genus *Ophryastes*, I have added descriptions of several contained in my collection from Missouri and California, and added new descriptions of the two species already described by Say and Schönherr, so that the student who may have occasion to refer to the genus, may find in a small space, the distinctive characters of all the species yet known within our territory.

To indicate the importance of accurate collections in distant parts of the country, I may add that, while the collection contained about 110 species of Coleoptera, 40 were new to our fauna. A much greater portion would have been added, had not the very active researches of Lieut. H. Haldeman already discovered a large number of those not included in the forty above mentioned.

Besides the species below described, I have added in the Revision of the Elateridæ of the United States, just published in the 10th volume of the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, descriptions of two very large species of *Agryppus*, a genus not before fully enrolled in our fauna.

#### CICINDELA Linn.

Among the species belonging to our fauna must be placed *C. curvata* Chevr., and *C. decostigma* Chevr. (Col. Mex. fasc. 2d.) Mexican species which have been found in Texas. The former was collected by the Commission, the latter by Lieut. Haldeman.

*C. vulturina*, supra sericeo-nigra, capite thoraceque virescentibus, labro albo, medio producto, 3-dentato, thorace paulo convexo, postice angustiore, lateribus late rotundatis breviter albo-pilosis, antice posticeque profundissime impresso, tenuiter canaliculato, elytris thorace sesqui latioribus minus convexis, apice late rotundatis non serratis, margine tenui cyanescente, versus basin vage punctatis; subtus purpureo-cyanea; fronte plana, utrinque subtiliter rugosa, glabra. Long. .63-.74.

Eagle Pass. The first joint of the labial palpi of the male is testaceous. This species seems to be most commonly without white marks on the elytra; the color in one specimen is greenish black, in the others it is pure black, at least on the elytra. One specimen has a faint rudiment of an apical lunule; in an-